A

LETTER

From a Gentleman to his Friend,

ON THE

TREATY

For DIVIDING the

Spaniſh Monarchy,

IF THE

KING of SPAIN

Should DIE without a SON.

SIR,

I wonder that the Treaty and Deſign of Dividing the *Spaniſh* Monarchy ſhould make a Noiſe, and raiſe ſuch violent Diſcourſes as I have heard, and ſuch Threatnings of the Miniſters that adviſed the King to make ſuch a Treaty; as if by that Treaty *France* was already Crown'd Univerſal Monarch of *Europe*: But I ſay, this was certainly the Wiſeſt and moſt Politick thing His Majeſty could do for *England*, next having Redeem'd us from Popery & Slavery.

And if the King was thereunto adviſed by any of his Council, thoſe Counſellors deſerve to have their Statues ſet up, and have the Publick Thanks and Prayers of the Nation; and our falſe Politicians, who exclaim againſt the ſaid Treaty, will be found either Fools or Knaves, or Malicious Villains, that would diſturb the Government; Some diſcontented Men that have either been turn'd out of their Places for *Jacobitiſm*, or that hope to have their Mouths ſtopt with Places or Money; and I expect to ſee them in Print, Spitting their Venom, and ſhewing their Malice, to this our Happy Government.

But all Wiſe, Honeſt, and true Lovers of *England*, will ſagaciouſly think and conſider well, before they exclaim againſt the Actions and Counſels of a King, to whoſe Courage and Wiſdom We, and all *Europe*, owe our Liberty, and the Peace we now Enjoy.

I pretend neither to Wit nor Eloquence, much leſs to be a Politician, or to be a Privy-Councellor, but I am an *Engliſh*-Man, and hate the Ingratitude of many of my Country-men to this Great Prince whom Heaven has given us.

Every *Cobler* in *England* is a Politician, Reads the *Gazette* and *Poſt-boy*, then Preaches and explains ſome Text from *Ditto*, which the Rabble take for Goſpel, truly ſuch are the Railers at this Treaty, but know nothing of the main Deſign.

Now Sir, I will not Condemn them without giving my Reaſons for it, as theſe ill People do, without knowing why this Treaty was made; for I dare ſay, they were not ask'd to give their Opinions no more than my ſelf, who do not think it Neceſſary to write a Volume of what is ſaid on this Subject, nor is it fit for me to pretend to Penetrate into a Kings Thoughts, but I plainly give you mine, and Thoughts ought to be free.

Firſt,

EBJ. K100.700 l

First, I do believe the Diſtemper of the King of *Spain* may be the Cauſe that the *French* King was ſo deſirous for a Peace, that he might be at Liberty to aſſert the *Dauphins* Pretenſions to the Crown of *Spain*, if the King of *Spain* Dyed; and for ought I know, *France* may have made an offer to the King, or his Miniſters at the Treaty at *Reyſwick*; if *France* did make that offer, pray tell me was it not Wiſely and Politickly done, if his Majeſty or his Miniſters ſhould anſwer, that it would not be proper at that time and place, leſt the *Emperour* and *Spain* ſhould break off the Treaty.

If the *French* did obtain a Promiſe for this Treaty, when the Peace was made, and all the Towns and Countreys delivered up, I ſay if they did; Pray tell me, was it not reaſonable and fit *England* and *Holland* ſhould make good their Promiſe, by which the ſo much deſired Peace was obtained, and a Petty Kingdom given back, which *France* cannot retake in Twenty years, tho' *England* ſtood Neuter; Theſe Towns have enlarged and Strengthned the Barrier of *Holland* and *Flanders*, which is the Intereſt of *England* to the higheſt Degree; for were *Holland* and *Flanders* o-ver-run, pray what would become of *England*? This was thought of in King *Charles* his Reign, who put a ſtop to the *French* Conqueſts, when *France* was at the very Gates of *Amſterdam*.

Next, I conſider this Agreement or Treaty is of no conſequence to the *French* King: For the King of *Spain* is not Dead, he may have a Son; and the *French* King is not Immmortal. But ſuppoſe the King of *Spain* were Dead, and hath no Son; I believe the *Spaniards* will chuſe themſelves a King; the Emperour hath Peace with the *Turk*, and will not eaſily give up his Intereſt, or Abandon the Houſe of *Auſtria*; *Italy* will hardly chuſe the *French* King for Pope: For *Rome* would ſoon be his, if *Naples*, *Sicily*, and *Spain* were in his Power; *Venice* will not like ſuch a Neighbour; nor will *Savoy*, or the *Suiſs* be eaſy.

If now a *French* Man ſhould ask me, What will the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* do, in caſe all theſe Nations oppoſe this Diviſion of the Spaniſh Monarchy? I would anſwer the *French* man with this Queſtion, Whether he would have me take it ill of him, if he did not punctually meet me at the *Royal-Exchange* at 12 a Clock, if he had broke his Leg at *Temple-Bar* at 11.

Can *France* expect the King of *England* ſhould go a Voluntier in his Army, to force the Emperour, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Venice*, *Savoy*, and the *Suiſs*, to make him Monarch of *Europe*? Or can it be imagin'd (conſidering the value and Jealouſy the Engliſh and Dutch have for their Trade and Liberty) that they will run Headlong to raiſe a Power to devour themſelves,

Why then all this Noiſe, but Maliciouſly to endeavour to make a Diſcord, between our Great King, and his Good Subjects? Is it not better to think as I do, for I only write my Thoughts, I am no Privy-Counſellor; but I believe it is more Honeſt, and more my Duty, to think the beſt of my Superiors, than Ungratefully to Exclaim againſt them who are ſet over us, and from whence we reap ſuch great Bleſſings as Peace affords, after our Preſervation from Popery and Slavery.

Thus Sir, I have given you my Reaſons for what I have ſaid on the Subject for Dividing the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, in Caſe the King of *Spain* ſhould Dye, and leave no Heir; I am very ſhort on every Paragraph, and not fond of Scribling: And *Hudibras* tells us,

Brevity is always good,
Whether we are or are not underſtood.

Beſides I would not be bid to meddle with my own Buſineſs.

This from,

Sir,

Your Humble Servant

W. K.

LONDON, Printed for *J. Nutt* near *Stationers-Hall*, 1700.

Harvard College Library
Coolidge Fund
November 24. 1950.